

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 ERDA-05

NASA-01 OIC-02 OES-03 SAJ-01 /116 W

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R 280020Z JAN 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5555

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0301

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UN

SUBJECT: AD HOC COMMITTEE TO REVIEW UN DISARMAMENT ROLE

1. THIS MESSAGE REPORTS DEVELOPMENTS DURING FIRST TWO DAYS OF
AD HOC COMMITTEE'S ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION.

2. BRIEF OPENING MEETING AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 26 INVOLVED
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY UNSYG WALDHEIM AND ELECTION AS EXPECTED OF
MRS. INGA THORSSON (SWEDEN) AS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN. THORSSON
ANNOUNCED HER UNDERSTANDING THAT THE BRUEARY WOULD CONSIST OF
10 MEMBERS BUT THAT FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE NECESSARY
TO DETERMINE WHO WOULD REPRESENT REGIONAL GROUPS. (WEO
GROUP HAS NOMINATED SWEDEN AND BELGIUM).

3. THORSSON HAD PLANNED TO ANNOUNCE IMMEDIATELY HER UNDERSTANDING
ON COMMITTEE'S METHOD OF DECISION-MAKING, BUT US DEL PERSUADED HER
TO DEFER ANNOUNCEMENT PENDING FURTHER CONSULTATIONS. ORIGINAL
SWEDISH FORMULATION CALLED FOR USE OF CONSENSUS, BUT
QUOTED QUESTIONABLE INTERPRETATION OF CONSENSUS RULE PUT
FORWARD BY UN LEGAL OFFICE IN 1974: "IN UNITED NATIONS ORGANS,
THE TERM CONSENSUS WAS USED TO DESCRIBE A PRACTICE UNDER WHICH
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EVERY EFFORT IS MADE TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT; BUT IF THAT COULD

NOT BE DONE, THOSE DISSENTING FROM THE GENERAL TREND WERE PREPARED SIMPLY TO MAKE THEIR POSITION OR RESERVATIONS KNOWN AND PLACED ON THE RECORD."

4. IN PRIVATE MEETING WITH SWEDES, US DEL OPPOSED INTERPRETATION OF CONSENSUS AS "GENERAL TREND", AND SUGGESTED INSTEAD A PROCEDURE THAT WOULD PERMIT ONLY RECOMMENDATIONS THAT COULD BE AGREED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPEAR IN THE REPORT. SWEDISH DEL REJECTED SUGGESTION ON GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD GIVE ANY DELEGATION VETO OVER COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS. AFTER FURTHER CONSULTATIONS, US DEL PROPOSED FOLLOWING LANGUAGE, WHICH WAS ACCEPTABLE TO SWEDISH, BRITISH, AND SOVIET DELS: "IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT DELEGATIONS WISH TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ACHIEVE UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT ON AS MANY OF THE ISSUES BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AS POSSIBLE, WITH THE PROVISION THAT ANY DELEGATION OR GROUP OF DELEGATIONS MAY HAVE THEIR OWN COMMENTS AND PROPOSALS RECORDED IN THE REPORT IN ADDITION TO THOSE FINDINGS AND PROPOSALS THAT ARE ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY."

5. THORSSON READ STATEMENT AT JANUARY 27 MEETING AND WAS ABOUT TO DECLARE IT ADOPTED WITHOUT OBJECTION AS COMMITTEE PROCEDURE WHEN TUNISIAN REP (DRISS) REQUESTED POSTPONEMENT OF DECISION UNTIL OTHER PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS COULD BE DISCUSSED. THORSSON AGREED TO POSTPONE DECISION UNTIL LATER IN ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION. SHE LATER TOLD US DEL SHE WOULD BE MEETING DRISS LATER JANUARY 27 AND SPECULATED THAT HIS INTERVENTION DID NOT REPRESENT SERIOUS OPPOSITION TO CHAIR'S PROPOSED PROCEDURE.

6. AT JANUARY 27 MEETING AMB HAMILTON (SWEDEN), ON BEHALF OF COSPONSORS OF UNGA RESOLUTION THAT ESTABLISHED AD HOC COMMITTEE, INTRODUCED WORKING PAPER THAT (1) SUGGESTS ISSUES CONCERNING UN DISARMAMENT ROLE THAT GOVERNMENTS MAY WISH TO ADDRESS IN THEIR COMMUNICATIONS TO UNSYG, (2) RECOMMENDS THAT UNSYG BE INVITED TO PROVIDE TO COMMITTEE ANY VIEWS HE DEEMS APPROPRIATE ON UN DISARMAMENT ROLE, AND (3) PROPOSES PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR SECOND COMMITTEE SESSION IN JUNE. COPIES OF WORKING PAPER POUCHED TO IO/UNP (LONG) AND ACDA/IR (BLACK).
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7. SWEDES HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO HAVE COMMITTEE TAKE DECISION ON WORKING PAPER, INCLUDING SUGGESTED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR GOVERNMENTS' REPLIES TO UNSYG. HOWEVER, SINCE SEVERAL DELS OBJECTED TO SUGGESTED TERMS OF REFERENCE, PARTICULARLY TREATMENT OF RELATIONSHIP OF UNGA TO CCD, SWEDES ABANDONED IDEA OF COMMITTEE DECISION ON WORKING PAPER. WORKING PAPER WILL SIMPLY BE TRANSMITTED, TOGETHER WITH SUMMARY RECORDS AND OTHER COMMITTEE

DOCUMENTATION, TO UN MEMBERS FOR INFORMATION.

8. SWEDES NONETHELESS HOPE TO HAVE COMMITTEE ADOPT ONE
ELEMENT OF WORKING PAPER-THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR SECOND SESSION.
PRESENT DRAFT CONTAINS NO SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR US, ALTHOUGH WE
ARE TRYING TO ELIMINATE WHAT WE SEE AS EXCESSIVE DETAIL IN
DESCRIBING HOW WORK OF SECOND SESSION WILL BE ORGANIZED (E.G.,
BY SETTING UP WORKING GROUPS).

9. UNLESS UNEXPECTED SNAGS DEVELOP, THORSSON EXPECTS AD HOC
COMMITTEE TO CONCLUDE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION ON THURSDAY,
JANUARY 29.
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